

REMARKS

The office action of April 21, 2008, has been carefully considered.

It is noted that restriction of the application is required, as well as an election of species.

Applicant has canceled original claims 1-16 and added a new set of claims 17-38. Claims 17-27 are directed to an apparatus and claims 28-28 are directed to a use of a composition contained in the apparatus.

Should a restriction be necessary, applicant restricts the application to the apparatus of claims 17-27. Applicant also elects the species alginic acid. Claims 17-23 and 25-27 read on the elected species. Claims 17-22 and 25-27 are generic for all of the species. It is understood that divisional applications for the unselected inventions and species can be filed at a later date.

The above restriction is made with traverse. Claims 28-38 are drawn to a use of the composition contained in the apparatus of claims 17-27. It is submitted that the inventions are linked so as

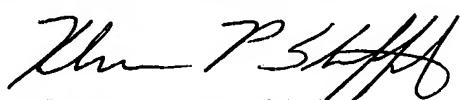
to form a single inventive concept.

Favorable action on the present application is respectfully requested.

Any additional fees or charges required at this time in connection with this application may be charged to Patent and Trademark Office Deposit Account No. 11-1835.

Respectfully submitted,

By



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, PO Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on June 23, 2008.

By: 
Klaus P. Stoffel

Date: June 23, 2008